



Highlights of 2004 Accomplishments

The vast majority of the work done by the Conservation District consists of providing information, technical assistance and financial assistance to land users. The list below is a summary of accomplishments for 2004. These accomplishments would not have been possible without contributions from numerous partnering agencies and organizations, and most importantly, the cooperative and collaborative efforts of private landowners.

Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance

- ⇒ 9 landowners (690 acres) assisted with development of conservation plans, including full implementation of 2 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans.
- ⇒ 177 acres of land protected/improved through implementation of conservation practices.
- ⇒ \$486,190 in cost-share contributed for conservation practice implementation and habitat improvement.
- ⇒ \$119,201 in matching funds was contributed by cooperating land users.

Water Quality Improvement/Protection

- ⇒ 2 irrigation ditches replaced with pipelines to eliminate polluted tailwater to Dungeness Bay.
- ⇒ Heavy use area protection and three livestock waste collection and storage structures installed on 5 farms to prevent contamination of surface and groundwater.

Water Conservation

- ⇒ 3.75 miles of open irrigation ditch replaced with pipeline.
- ⇒ Over 1.0 cubic feet per second (330 acre feet/year) of irrigation water conserved, including 0.3 cfs (89 ac ft) of on-farm conservation, for increased instream flow and fish habitat in the Dungeness River.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement/Protection

- ⇒ 47 acres of riparian habitat improved and protected along 2.75 miles of stream.
- ⇒ Design and permitting completed for replacement of 1 barrier to fish passage on a forest road.

Education

- ⇒ 5 workshops on farm stewardship attended by 90 people.
- ⇒ 8 workshops on landscaping with native plants attended by 144 people.
- ⇒ Watershed and water quality programs attended by 455 school children.
- ⇒ Developed and presented a short course on Natural Landscaping attended by 46 people.

The work of Clallam Conservation District is funded almost entirely by State grants, thus the operating budget varies from year to year depending on the grants that are awarded. In 2004 the Conservation District had 12 separate grants and a total of \$724,610 in expenditures. Seventy-six percent of these funds came from the Washington State Conservation Commission. Sixty-three percent of these expenditures were for conservation practice implementation, and 31 percent was for staffing. The Conservation District had 5.5 fulltime employees in 2004.



The educational booth at this year's Native Plant Sale drew quite a crowd.

Conservation District Events

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, April 19 and Saturday, April 23, 1:00pm to 4:00pm, Dungeness Recreation Area.

Participants will learn to identify over 30 native trees and shrubs, as well as their cultural requirements, habitat qualities, and ornamental attributes. The field trip is free; however, pre-registration is required due to space limitations. To register call 452-1912x5 to register.

SPRING LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

Pasture, Mud and Manure Management

Tuesday, April 12th, 6:00 -8:30pm, Port Angeles Library

Participants will learn tips and techniques on maximizing grass production in their pastures, turning muddy areas into year-round mud free zones, and using manure as a resource.

Raising Healthy Horses and Livestock

Monday, April 18th, 6:00-8:30pm, Dungeness River Center

Attendees will learn ways to keep their animals healthy on their farms, including tips to reduce mosquitoes and flies around animals. Guest speakers include Dr. Christin Finn who will speak on equine nutrition and health; and Ken Garling who will provide information on selecting good quality, weed-free hay.

Naturescaping Farms & Identification and Control of Noxious/Poisonous Weeds

Tuesday, May 3rd, 6:00 - 8:30pm, Port Angeles Library

Planners will provide information on enhancing your farm for wildlife and tips to aid in control of nuisance wildlife. Guest speaker, Cathy Lucero, will provide detailed information on identifying and managing noxious/poisonous weeds on your farms. Please feel free to bring samples of weeds for identification.

Pasture Walk & Fencing Demo.

Tuesday May 10th, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Robin Hill Farm Park

Tour the demonstration rotational grazing paddocks at Robin Hill Farm Park and learn to identify key forage species. Guest speaker, Ken Garling, will give a fencing demonstration and provide tips on selecting the right type of fence for your animals.

**TO REGISTER FOR THE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS
CALL MEGHAN at (360) 452-1912 ext. 109**

Other Upcoming Events

SHOWING OF "THE FUTURE OF FOOD"

The Blue Stockings Book Club is sponsoring a showing of the film "The Future of Food" on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 at the Peninsula College Theater. This film examines the changing face of agriculture and how it affects the very food we eat. A panel discussion will follow. Guaranteed to be a thought-provoking evening!

STREAMKEEPERS ANNUAL TRAINING

Streamkeepers, Clallam County's volunteer watershed monitoring program, will hold its 7th annual training this summer. They are looking for new volunteers to join existing stream teams or to start up new ones. Teams monitor many aspects of stream health throughout the county. All ages and backgrounds are welcome! To find out more about the program visit www.clallam.net/streamkeepers or call (360) 417-2281.

KEEPING IT CLEAN:

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER

This is the third in a series of articles and photos on actions you can take to keep our streams, rivers and bays clean. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers, and failing septic tanks. All of these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things that help clean up our water too!

Fertilizer

Fertilizer isn't a problem if it is used carefully. If too much fertilizer is applied, or it is applied at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn, garden or pasture into storm drains or directly into nearby streams and other water bodies. While fertilizer makes your lawn and gardens grow well, it also makes extra algae and aquatic plants grow in lakes and streams. Too much algae harms water quality and makes boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

How can you help?

- ⇒ Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think. Consider taking a soil test to determine exactly how much fertilizer your plants need. Contact the Clallam Conservation District at (360) 452-1912x109 for more information.
- ⇒ Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- ⇒ Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- ⇒ Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer.



A cooperative venture between the Puget Sound Action Team, Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, and Tacoma.



Clallam Conservation District

111 E 3rd St. Suite #2A
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 452-1912 ext. 109

Name _____

Address/P.O. Box _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

**Orders must be received by
April 15, 2005.**

**Pick-up day will be:
May 7th - 9:00 AM to Noon at the
Clallam County Fairgrounds.**

Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping us make and distribute rain barrels?
Call (360) 452-1912 ext. 109 for more details.

2005 Rain Barrel Order Form

**Please complete this form and return it with
your payment as soon as possible, either by
mail or to our office.**

**Only 300 rain barrels are available, so order
early to ensure that we can fill your order.**



ITEM	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY (limit 10 rain barrels per household)	TOTAL COST
Rain Barrel	\$40.00		
Discount for attending Water Conservation Workshop (see below for details)	-\$5.00		
		TOTAL	

Please make checks payable to: Clallam Conservation District

Once we receive your order and payment, we will reserve your rain barrel(s) and send you a receipt.
If you have any questions, please call 452-1912 ext. 109.

Want to Receive a \$5.00 Discount Per Rain Barrel???

Sign-up to attend our free Workshop "Landscaping and Water Conservation" on April 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Dungeness River Center. The workshop will include valuable tips on making the most of your rain barrels, as well as other suggestions on saving water in your backyard. To receive your discount and register for the workshop, just check the box below and state how many people will be attending.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, if you don't attend the workshop the discount won't apply!

☐ Yes, I would like to attend the "Landscaping and Water Conservation" Workshop. # of people attending _____

Using Rain Barrels in the Pacific Northwest

Rain barrels are containers used to collect rain water running off roofs. Hooked up to roof downspouts, the water they capture can be used for watering gardens, potted plants, and even livestock and horses.

Rain barrels typically only store 55 gallons but can be joined together to collect and store more water. Elevating rain barrels with concrete blocks will allow easy access to the spigot near the bottom, which a regular garden hose can be hooked onto.

BENEFITS

- ⇒ 1/4 inch of rain falling on 100 square feet of roof space will catch over 15 gallons of water., so if your house has a roof surface of 2,000 square feet, and 1/4 inch of rain falls in a storm, you would be able to capture 300 gallons of water using six rain barrels.
- ⇒ Use the following rainfall amounts to estimate how much rain water could be captured during the dry months (monthly averages for Port Angeles and Sequim):
 - April, May, June and September: 1.0 inch per month
 - July and August: 0.5 to 0.75 inches per month

IMPORTANT

- ⇒ DO NOT use rain barrel water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- ⇒ If moss killer has been used on the roof, let a few rain events wash it away before collecting the water. Treated shakes, copper, or asphalt may affect the quality of your water, so know what your roof is made of before committing to a rain barrel.
- ⇒ Be sure to install an overflow line from your barrel to your existing roof runoff collection system. During the winter rains barrels need to be managed to minimize the impact on your building foundation and land.
 - Disconnect the rain barrel from the downspout and return the system to its original state, OR
 - Connect a hose to the overflow spigot and direct it away from the building. Do not send overflow across parking lots, septic drainfields, bare soil or livestock heavy use areas, OR
 - Leave the outlet faucet open and set a rock or concrete block under it to minimize erosion of the soil.
 (Be sure to check with your local city or county public works department before changing your current roof runoff system)
- ⇒ Monitor the water in your rain barrel for mosquito larvae. The mesh screen on top is designed to block mosquitoes from entering the barrel, but if you notice mosquito larvae it is a good idea to completely empty the barrel.
- ⇒ Keep the lids on rain barrels at all times. Children or small animals could become trapped inside them.
- ⇒ Only move empty rain barrels. A full 55-gallon rain barrel can weigh 440 pounds.



Outdoor Water Conservation

Earlier this month, a drought emergency was declared for the State of Washington. With the extremely low snowpack and dry conditions, water conservation will be extra important this year. **Did you know that landscape watering is one of the largest uses of water in most homes?** Use these outdoor water conservation tips to help conserve water this summer:

Golden is Gorgeous: A Dormant Lawn...

Now is the time to start preparing your lawn for a dormancy period that will drastically cut down on its watering needs. Watering the lawn with infrequent and deep waterings in the upcoming months will encourage an extensive root system that can make the most of limited moisture in the soil during the summer. Thatch and aerate the lawn this spring to increase the capacity of the soil to receive and maintain moisture. When mowing, set the lawn mower to at least 2" in height or more to encourage deeper roots. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to add organic matter to the soil as they break down. Once summer arrives, allow the lawn to go dormant and enjoy its beautiful tawny hues.

...Or No Lawn At All!

Reducing the area of lawn in your yard is another way to save both water and work. When planning your landscape, use lawn in functional areas only and replace the rest with drought resistance shrubs and ground covers. Incorporating deck areas, patios and pathways can also reduce water consumption and add definition to your landscape.

Go Native, but Not Yet

Native plants make an excellent choice for a water conservation landscape because they are adapted to our regional pattern of wet winters and dry summers. Once established, native plants need little to no care. However, all new plants take a lot of water to survive. Instead of investing in new plants during this period of drought, focus on soil building and mulching activities to prepare your existing plants for upcoming water stress. If you have purchased plants be sure to keep them well watered.

A 2"-6" layer of mulch over your planting beds helps to keep the soil cool and moist. Using shredded branches, leaves, grass clippings or bark chips as mulch will not only conserve moisture in the soil, but will provide organic matter to the soil as it breaks down. Soils with increased amounts of organic matter absorb and retain water better.

Free Landscaping and Water Conservation Workshop

Where: Dungeness River Center

When: April 19th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

What: Water conservation and a beautiful landscape can go hand-in-hand! Come learn about successful landscaping tips to survive the summer drought, as well as creative ideas on how to use rain barrels in gardens, flowerbeds and more! Call Clallam Conservation District at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 to register. Remember, participants receive a \$5.00 discount on rain barrels.



2005 Plant Sale Update

Thanks to everyone who ordered native plants from us this Spring. Approximately 11,900 native plants found new homes with 247 Clallam County families. Remember to keep those trees and shrubs well watered this spring and summer.

A special word of appreciation goes out to all our enthusiastic volunteers who worked so hard to help us make the plant sale a success.



COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Clallam Conservation District currently has cost-share funds available to assist livestock owners in fencing livestock away from streams. Funding is also available for installing alternative livestock watering systems if livestock are no longer able to drink from the stream. Examples of alternative livestock watering systems include nose pumps and stock tanks. Fencing and stock watering designs are flexible but must meet Natural Resource Conservation Services standards. Cost-share rates typically range from 50-75% and all cost-share applicants are required to work with District staff to develop a farm management plan for their farm. Call 452-1912x5 for more information on cost sharing.



Wanted: Eager Farmer Seeks Prime Farmland for Long-Term Relationship

The Clallam Conservation District is teaming up with Friends of the Fields to protect farmland in Clallam County by connecting buyers and sellers of good farmland. We are in the process of developing "The Farmland Connection", an information exchange for people who need farmland and people who have farmland to sell or lease.

Check our website <http://clallam.scc.wa.gov> and upcoming newsletters for further developments.

If you are looking for land to farm, if you have farmland you would like to see farmed, or if you have thoughts and suggestions for implementing the Farmland Connection, please call

Clea Rome with the Conservation District at (360) 452-1912 x 112, or Bob Caldwell with Friends of the Fields at (360) 681-0169. We welcome your ideas!



NEW CREP PLANNER



Luke Cherney joined Clallam Conservation District as a CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) planner last summer. Luke covers all of Clallam and Jefferson counties. Luke grew up in Colorado and attended Colorado State University where he earned a degree in Natural Resources Management. His work experience includes seasonal employment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conducting fish habitat surveys and implementing watershed restoration projects.

CREP is a voluntary program that restores farmland along salmon-bearing streams to native riparian habitat by planting native trees and shrubs. Landowners receive an annual rental payment on the land enrolled in the program and maintenance expenses are covered on the plantings for five years. Currently, 45.5 acres of land and 13,992 lineal feet of stream are enrolled in this program in Clallam County.

Do you own land on a salmon stream? Interested in getting PAID to plant and grow trees? Please contact Luke at 360-385-4105, or Clallam Conservation District at 452-1912 for more information!

BOB FORDE ELECTED TO BOARD

In March, Clallam County voters elected Bob Forde to the Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Bob defeated Ben Smith, and replaces Matt Heins, who did not run for re-election.

An ardent advocate for private property rights, Bob provided the following statement in response to the question of why he wanted to serve on the Board: "It is my belief that every freedom-loving citizen has an obligation to the community in which he or she lives, to be of some service without regard to personal gain. It is my hope to contribute in some small way to that end. That is why I wish to serve on the Clallam Conservation District. I have a deep love of this land, and want to help with water, soil, and all our wonderful natural resources in a thoughtful and practical manner."

Conservation Sponsors

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The Clallam Conservation District wishes to thank all of its supporters for their participation in conserving the area's natural resources. A special thank you is extended to those individuals and groups that help sponsor programs such as the native plant sale, workshops and community education and outreach.

If you are interested in becoming a newsletter sponsor, for \$50 per year your name or the name of your business will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter,

or for \$100 per year, your company business card will also be printed once a year.

The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching 1,570 households. The newsletter is also available for review on our website. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts.

If interested in becoming a sponsor, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the Clallam County Courthouse.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
 Nash Huber, Vice-Chair
 Walt Forsberg, Treasurer
 Bob Forde, Member
 Steve Marble, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 452-1912 ext 5

District Manager: Joe Holtrop

Conservation Planners:

Jennifer Coyle-Bond, Meghan Peacock,
 and Clea Rome

CREP Planner: Luke Cherney

Engineering Tech: Laurie Yarnes

Administrative Assistant: Janell Kiphart

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jim Poffel
 (360) 452-8994 ext. 101

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